

Group Art Unit: 3627  
Examiner: Lugo, C.

Atty. Ref.: USUI-12N

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Shoichiro Usui  
App. No. : 09/731,170  
Filed : December 6, 2000  
For : HIGH-PRESSURE METAL PIPE HAVING CONNECTING HEAD  
AND METHOD FORMING THE CONNECTING HEAD AS WELL  
AS SLEEVE WASHER FOR THE CONNECTING HEAD

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF DRAWING CHANGES**

**RECI**  
**APR 2**  
**GROU**

Sir:

This request is submitted concurrently with an Amendment that addresses issues raised in the Office Action of February 6, 2002. Counsel has realized that original FIGS. 6-8 show only subject matter that is admitted to the prior art. As a result, the sheet of drawings attached to this request shows FIGS. 6-8 annotated with red ink to identify each of the figures as "PRIOR ART". Approval of this proposed change is requested. Formal drawings that incorporate this change will be filed upon allowance of the claims.

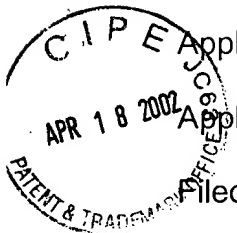
Respectfully submitted,

  
Gerald E. Hespos, Esq.

Atty. Reg. No. 30,066  
Customer No. 001218  
CASELLA & HESPOS LLP  
274 Madison Avenue - Suite 1703  
New York, NY 10016  
Tel. (212) 725-2450  
Fax (212) 725-2452

Date: APRIL 11, 2002

Approved Drawing Change  
CALM 5-16-02



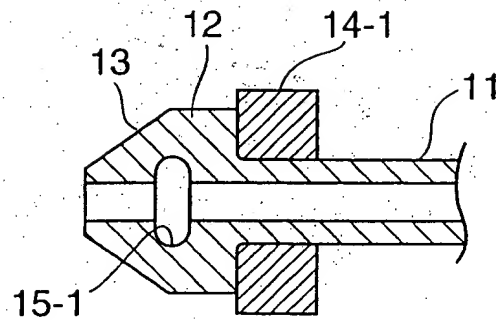


Fig. 6 ("PRIOR ART")

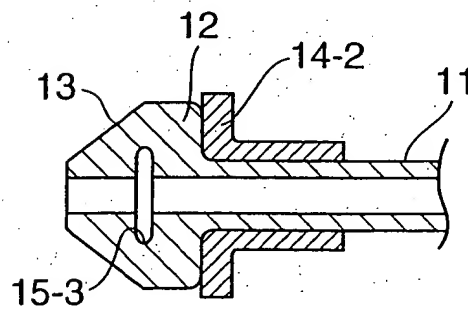


Fig. 7 ("PRIOR ART")

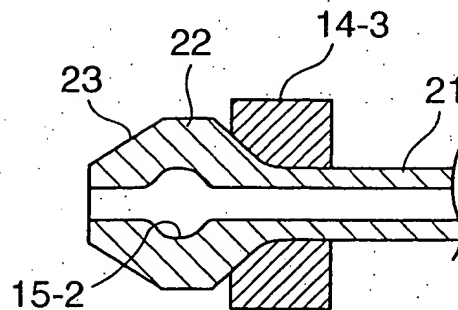


Fig. 8 ("PRIOR ART")